The bulletin of international news

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BULLETIN

OF THE

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I. GENERAL INTEREST.
FEBRUARY 16TH - MARCH 2ND.
1925.

SATURDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY.

A Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation was signed in Paris between the French and Siamese Governments.

The President of the Council of the League of Nations appointed the Presidents of the four Commissions of Investigation into the Armaments of ex-enemy states.

MONDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY.

The League of Nations Coordination Commission held its first session at Geneva for the purpose of adopting the draft Convention for the Control of Traffic in Arms. Mr. Ronald McNeill, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, represented Great Britain.

The United States Senate confirmed the appointment of Mr. Kellogg as Secretary of State.

The Belgian and Swiss Governments have signed at Paris the Convention of Conciliation, with provisions for the conciliatory settlement of international disputes. This Treaty is one of a series concluded by Switzerland with European Powers.

The Commonwealth Fund, New York, announced the establishment of twenty annual fellowships at American universities for British graduate students.

M. Relander was elected President of Finland.

Considerable anxiety was caused in Paris in financial circles owing to the fall of the franc to 91.53 for sterling, and 19.20 for the dollar.

The Yugo-Slav-Italian Commercial Conference opened at Venice.

TUESDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY.

M. Herriot, in the French Chamber, asked for a party truce in order to arrest the fall of the franc, which stood at 90.56.

WEDNESDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY.

The Report on German disarmament prepared by the Inter-Allied Military Commission of Control, was handed to Marshal Foch, President of the Versailles Committee.

Herr Marx succeeded in forming a coalition government in Prussia, which can command 222 votes in the Diet, as against the 228 votes of the remaining parties.

The French Exchange stood at 91.10 to the £1.

THURSDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY.

A "Banquet of Justice" accorded to M. Joseph Caillaux on his return to public life, was attended by over 2,000 people.

The Protocol was discussed before the Belgian Senate.

M. Clementel, in the French Chamber, proposed the launching

of the American Loan.

Conversations were held in Cairo between the Italian Minister and the Egyptian Premier with regard to the rectification of the Italo-Egyptian frontier.

The Convention and Protocol of the Second Opium Conference was signed at Geneva.

The French Exchange stood at 91.75.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH.

M. Clémentel, in the French Chamber, introduced a bill creating a sinking fund for the reduction of the public debt.

The French Exchange stood at 91.60 to the £1.

The newly formed Prussian Cabinet of Herr Marx was defeated on a motion of confidence, being placed in a minority of three, and resigned.

The Permanent Court of International Justice delivered its advisory opinion on the interpretation and the meaning to be attributed to the word "establish", as it occurs under Article 2, of the Exchange of Populations Convention, forming part of the Peace of Lausanne. The Court gave opinion that the word "establish" referred to a situation of fact, constituted in the case of the persons in question by residence of a lasting nature, and that in consequence of this, Greek inhabitants of Constantinople who were resident therein previous to October, 1918, and who had the intention of residing there for an extended period, must be considered as "established" and immune from compulsory exchange.

The German Trade Delegation decided to return to Germany from Paris to consult public and industrial opinion.

The Turkish Foreign Minister declared that Turkey would not appear before the League of Nations to discuss the question of the expulsion of the Œcumenichal Patriarch, because that institution was not competent to deal with the question, which was a domestic issue.

The Russo-Japanese Treaty was ratified by Russia.

SATURDAY, 21ST FEBRUARY.

The German Trade Delegation decided, on consideration, to remain in Paris until next Friday before returning to Berlin.

SUNDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY.

Considerable anxiety and concern reported from Athens as a result of the Turkish Foreign Minister's speech, warning the League of Turkey's non-appearance at Geneva.

MONDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY.

Close contact was maintained during the week-end between the British and French Governments, and several conversations ensued in London and Paris on the subject of German disarmament and French security.

MONDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY.

Signor Scialoja, former Foreign Minister, has been appointed to succeed Signor Salandra as senior Italian Delegate to the League of Nations.

Negotiations are in progress between China and Afghanistan for the conclusion of a treaty of amity, commerce and navigation.

TUESDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY.

Death of Hjalmar Branting, former Prime Minister of Sweden and senior Swedish Delegate to the League of Nations.

A Kurdish rising in Schoikh Saide broke out in the region round Dirbek and Urfa.

The Tangier Convention, which was to come into force on March 1st, is now postponed owing to Spain's objections to certain points of procedure.

The Vali of Constantinople urged the Holy Synod to elect a new OEcumenichal Patriarch at the earliest possible moment. He also offered immunity of exchange to the Holy Synod on condition that that body should secure within four days the abdication of Mgr. Constantine VI.

WEDNESDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY.

The Kurdish insurgents proclaimed one of the Ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid's sons as King of Kurdistan. Considerable anxiety has been occasioned to the Turkish Government.

The Soviet-German trade negotiations, which were broken off before Christmas, were resumed.

Negotiations between Bulgaria and Turkey for a treaty of friendship have been opened.

Japan ratified the Russo-Japanese Treaty.

THURSDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY.

The Kurdish revolt continues. Opinion is divided as to its causes, the Government fearing that it may be a Kurdish Nationalist movement, others believing it to be due to foreign intrigue.

The French Budget is being rushed through the Chamber of Deputies by the Government in order that it may be passed on to the Senate by Monday. The Opposition are bitterly opposed to these tactics.

Negotiations between Greece and Yugo-Slavia have been resumed.

Signor Francesco Copola has been re-appointed Italian Delegate to the League of Nations.

II. SPECIAL TOPICS.

1. Disarmament and Security.

The question of security, and more especially of French security, is one which is about to exercise the minds of diplomatists to no little degree. Security has become an obsession with France, and one which can be readily appreciated. The fact that the final Report of the Inter-Allied Military Mission of Control is now before the Versailles Committee, (of which Marshal Foch is President, and Major-General Clive British Representative) and the Conference of Ambassadors is sufficient to emphasise the necessity of finding some practicable form of disarmament before the next session of the Assembly of the League of Nations in September. An early publication of the Report is anxiously awaited.

The Report of the Imperial Committee of Defence on the Geneva Protocol has been presented to the Cabinet, and although the actual text is unknown, it is enough to surmise that the Protocol will be shelved until September, when a set of amendments- perhaps necessarily drastic (judging by the opinions expressed recently in the Dominions) will be put forward by the British Government.

Meanwhile, there remains the problem of French security, which forms one of the points of discussion between Mr. Austen Chamberlain and M. Herriot, during the former's visit to Paris on his way to the thirty-third session of the League Council at Geneva on March 9th. The Paris press has persistently called for an inter-allied conference on the dual question of debts and security, and it is likely that this may take place either in London or Brussels in April.

Despite Mr. Chamberlain's denial of the fact that negotiations have been entered into by the British Government with any power for a pact of security, international rumour is still busy on the continent with the possibilities of a British-French-Belgian Pact to which Germany should be invited to become a party.

2. The Russo-Japanese Treaty.

The ratification by the Praesidium of the Central Executive Council of the Soviet Union on February 20th of the Russo-Japanese Treaty, signed on January 21st at Tokyo, as far, of course, as Russia is concerned, concludes the three years diplomatic struggle in the Far East.

The Treaty consists of a convention and two protocols, of which the first deals with consular relations and the second with oil concessions in Russian Saghalien.

The principal provisions of the whole Agreement may be summarised as follows:-

Diplomatic and Consular relations will be full re-established.

A treaty of commerce and navigation will be concluded.

The parties will accord each other most-favoured-nation treatment so far as possible.

Both parties are resolved to preserve friendship and to prevent persons in the State service and also organisations receiving the State's financial assistance from acting in any way calculated to endanger order in Japan or Soviet Russia.

The Soviet Government consents to a concession to exploit 50 percent of the oil-bearing territory in North Saghalien, where the Japanese Government has already begun work.

The Soviet will allow Japanese to explore for oil during a period of five to ten years on the East coast of North Saghalien, over a territory of 1,000 square versts, and 50 per cent. of the oil properties discovered will be granted to them in the form of concessions.

Coal mining concessions to Japan on the West coast of North Saghalien will be defined in future contracts.

Japan will hand over annually to the Societ from 5 to 8 per cent. of the total amount of coal, and from 5 to 15 per cent. of the oil obtained. The latter percentage will be raised to 45 per cent. in the case of gushers.

Both parties are agreed concerning the order of the Japanese evacuation and the transference of North Saghalien to the Soviet power.

Consideration of the question of State loans received by former Russian Governments, and also of inter-Government claims and private claims against either Government is postponed until the next negotiations between Japan and the Soviet.

There is no specific mention of the Bessarabian Treaty of October, 1920, (the instrument by which the Province of Bessarabia was assured to Roumania). But considerable anxiety was caused in Roumania owing to a rumour that a secret clause provided for Japan's refusal to ratify this document. It is semi-officially announced, however, from Tokyo, that Japan entered into no such understanding and this disclaimer, in its turn, has been the cause of a further diatribe from Moscow.

III. NOTES AND NEWS.

BOOKS.

A number of items of international interest are included among the publishers' lists for immediate or forthcoming appearance. They include:

"The Geneva Protocol" by Professor Philip J. Baker, (Cassell Professor of International Relations, in University of London. P.S. King & Sons, Published February 23rd. 9/-

Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co. announce that they are about to issue a second edition of "A Handbook on the League of Nations, (first published in 1919), in which Sir Godfrey Butler has brought up to date his history of the League for the last five years.

Messrs. Simpkin Marshall published on February 23rd, "How War was Abolished" by Herbert John Paintin, 3/6.

"The League, the Empire and the Protocol" by Roth Williams, is included in Messrs. Fisher Unwin's notices of immediate publication.

WORLD ESSAY COMPETITION, 1925.

The annual World Essay Contest, open to students of all countries, held under the auspices of the American School Citizenship League, offers to seniors in secondary schools the following subject, "The Organization of the World for the Prevention of War."

For students in normal schools and teachers' colleges, the subject is, "Methods of Promoting World Friendship through Education."

Three prizes known as the Seabury prizes, of $75, $50 and $25 each, will be given for the best essays in each set. The contest closes June 1st, 1925. The essays should contain about 3,000 words and must not exceed 5,000 words. Full particulars should be obtained from Mrs. Fannie Fern Andrews, Secretary, American School Citizenship League, 405, Marlborough Street, Boston 17, Mass.

POSTER COMPETITION.

A competition open to artists of all countries, with a prize of 5,000f. has been offered by the League of Red Cross Societies for a poster to advertise the work of the Red Cross in time of peace. (2, Avenue Velasquez, Paris (VIII).

PEACE SYMBOL PRIZE.

From the League of Nations Union, we learn that the American National Council for the Prevention of War has offered a prize of 100 dollars in gold for a symbol signifying peace which can be used best on buttons, seals, heads of letters, etc. It will be interesting to see what new device is to supercede the dove and olive branch.

IV. LEAGUE OF NATIONS NOTES.

The Opium Conference.

A convention regulating opium smoking in the Far East has been signed by all delegates to the First Opium Conference except the Chinese. The Convention was drawn up before Christmas, but there has now been added to it a Protocol by which the signatory states undertake to suppress the use of prepared opium within fifteen years from that date on which smuggling shall be effectively prevented by the producing countries. In the course of the discussions, the Finnish delegate suggested that the forthcoming conference on the traffic in arms should pay special attention to the export of arms to China, which he considered to be principally responsible for prolonging the disorganisation.

The Committee on the Traffic in Women and the Protection of Children met at Geneva on February 17th.

The Delhi Legislative Assembly has recommended that the Indian representatives at the Assembly should be instructed to place the grievances of Indians in the mandated area of Tanganycha before the League.

The Second Opium Conference came to an end on February 19th. It adopted a convention whose principal feature is the institution of a central Control Board of eight members appointed by the Council, together with the United States and Germany. All signatory governments are to make returns to the Board of their annual estimated requirements of drugs, with full information regarding production, stocks held, exports and imports. The system of import and export certificates is strengthened, and the origin and destination of all drugs will be known to the Board, which can call attention to any caves where illicit traffic is suspected. Ten States, including Great Britain, the Netherlands, Japan and Siam, have signed the convention.

(By the courtesy of the League of Nations Union.)

V. FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

International Fair at Leipzig, March 1st - 7th.

Thirty-Third Session of the Council of the League of Nations at Geneva opens March 9th.